## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

MP VISTA, INC., HABIB PETROLEUM, and: WARREN'S SHELL, INC. INDIVIDUALLY AND ON BEHALF OF THOSE SIMILARLY:

No. 1:07-CV-00099-\*\*\*

SITUATED,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

MOTIVA ENTERPRISES LLC and SHELL OIL COMPANY,

Defendants.

#### JOINT SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

On April 25, 2007, counsel for the parties conferred by telephone pursuant to Rule 26(f). Thereafter, the parties agreed to submit this joint scheduling proposal to the Court.

Defendants have filed a motion to transfer venue in this putative class action to the Eastern District of Louisiana, where a similar case arising out of the same events was pending until recently. The parties agree that the typical scheduling deadlines should not begin to run until after the Court has ruled on the venue motion. If the case remains in this District after the venue ruling, the parties further agree that a phased schedule is appropriate, with class discovery to be completed and a class certification hearing to be conducted before merits issues are reached.

Accordingly, the parties jointly propose that the Court adopt the following schedule for resolving the class issues in this case, in the event that venue is not transferred:

The deadline for motions to join other party or to amend 1. Joinder. pleadings is June 2, 2007.

- 2. <u>Initial Disclosures</u>. The parties shall make their initial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1) within 15 days after the venue ruling.
- 3. <u>Fact Discovery on Class Issues</u>. Discovery on class issues shall be initiated so that it will be completed within **90 days** after the venue ruling. This includes depositions of the named plaintiffs. Each side is limited to 40 hours of total deposition time.
- 4. <u>Plaintiffs' Experts on Class Certification Issues.</u> Plaintiffs shall designate and serve an expert report for any experts on class issues within **120 days** after the venue ruling. Plaintiffs' class experts shall be deposed within **145 days** after the venue ruling.
- 5. <u>Defendants' Experts on Class Certification Issues</u>. Defendants shall designate and serve an expert report for any experts on class issues within **145 days** after the venue ruling. Defendants' class experts shall be deposed within **170 days** after the venue ruling.
- 6. <u>Class Certification Briefing Schedule</u>. Plaintiffs shall file a motion for class certification within **200 days** after the venue ruling. Defendants shall file a response 20 days after Plaintiffs' motion is filed. Plaintiffs shall file any reply 20 days after Defendants' response is filed.
- 7. <u>Class Certification Hearing</u>. The Court shall schedule a class certification hearing on a convenient date sometime at least **240 days** after the venue ruling.
- 8. <u>Scheduling for Remaining Merits Issues</u>. Following a ruling on the class certification motion, the parties shall promptly report to the Court on a proposed schedule for any remaining items that need to be completed before a trial on the merits is scheduled.

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#### KIMMEL CARTER

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS

Date: May 1, 2007

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on May 1, 2007, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent via electronic mail to all counsel of record.

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# ORDER APPROVING THE PARTIES' JOINT SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

On May 2, 2007, the Court conducted a preliminary scheduling conference by telephone. Before the conference, the parties submitted a Joint Scheduling Proposal concerning deadlines for the class discovery phase of this case. The Court hereby **APPROVES AND ADOPTS** the parties' proposal as a Scheduling Order for this matter.

	UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
Dated:		